

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ACT RESULTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS RELEASED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Overall results from the 2010 administration of the ACT to Kentucky's public school juniors show improvements in all subject areas and higher percentages of students ready for college-level coursework.

"We are beginning to see the benefits of an early focus on college and career readiness; however, there is much work remaining," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "Beginning in 2010-11, as mandated by 2009's Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), high schools across the Commonwealth are required to partner with postsecondary institutions to provide interventions that will ensure more students graduate from high school ready for college and careers. The emphasis of SB 1 is on target with the national focus to regain our competitive edge in the percentage of adults who have postsecondary degrees. The economy of our Commonwealth and our nation depends on our ability to improve the education levels of the workforce, and this begins with a focus on college- and career-ready graduates.

"This fall, KDE will release information that shows the percentages of public high school graduates that are college- and career-ready. I feel certain our administrators, teachers, parents and students will rise to the challenge of making even greater improvements in the future."

As mandated by KRS 158.6453, all of Kentucky's public school juniors participate in the ACT, which assesses English, reading, mathematics and science and is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The cost of the exam is paid for by state funds. In spring 2010, 44,390 public school juniors took the ACT.

(more)

Visit our Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.

ACT developed College Readiness Benchmarks in English, mathematics, science and reading, with research indicating that students who reach those have a 50 percent chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75 percent chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course. The benchmark scores are:

- 18 or higher on the ACT English Test
- 22 or higher on the ACT Mathematics Test
- 21 or higher on the ACT Reading Test
- 24 or higher on the ACT Science Test

For the Kentucky public school juniors who took the ACT assessment in 2010, the percentages of students ready for college-level courses increased.

PERCENTAGES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS READY FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL WORK

COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSE	2008	2009	2010
English Composition	46%	46%	49%
Algebra	20%	21%	22%
Social Science	33%	30%	35%
Biology	15%	16%	15%

2008, 2009 AND 2010 ACT SUBJECT-AREA SCORES KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS

Group	ENGLISH			MATHEMATICS			READING			SCIENCE		
	'08	'09	'10	'08	'09	'10	'08	'09	'10	'08	'09	'10
All Students	17.3	17.3	17.8	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.5	18.4	18.9	18.7	18.5	18.7
African Am./Black	13.8	14.1	14.4	16.0	16.1	16.2	15.6	15.6	15.9	16.3	16.1	16.2
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	13.3	14.4	15.6	15.8	16.2	17.0	15.4	16.3	17.4	16.0	16.3	16.7
Caucasian Am./White	18.0	17.8	18.3	18.5	18.5	18.6	19.2	18.8	19.4	19.3	18.8	19.1
Hispanic	14.6	15.0	15.2	17.0	17.3	17.3	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.2	17.3	17.1
Asian Am./Pacific Islander	18.8	20.3	20.6	21.0	22.4	22.5	19.8	20.6	21.4	20.2	21.4	21.5
Other/No Response	15.7	17.2	17.1	17.2	18.2	17.8	17.2	18.3	18.3	17.6	18.4	18.0
Males	16.6	16.5	17.0	18.3	18.3	18.4	17.9	17.7	18.5	18.8	18.5	18.7
Females	18.0	18.2	18.6	17.9	18.1	18.2	19.2	19.1	19.3	18.7	18.5	18.7
No Gender Response	15.0	14.8	14.9	16.6	16.6	16.2	16.7	16.3	16.7	17.1	16.4	16.3

(more)

**2008, 2009 AND 2010 ACT COMPOSITE SCORES
KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS**

Group	COMPOSITE		
	'08	'09	'10
All Students	18.3	18.2	18.5
African Am./Black	15.6	15.6	15.8
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	15.2	15.9	16.8
Caucasian Am./White	18.9	18.6	19.0
Hispanic	16.4	16.8	16.8
Asian Am./Pacific Islander	20.1	21.3	21.6
Other/No Response	17.1	18.1	17.9
Males	18.0	17.9	18.3
Females	18.5	18.6	18.8
No Gender Response	16.5	16.2	16.2

ACT provides information about high school students who take recommended core courses, which include four years of English, three mathematics courses, three social studies courses and three science courses over the four years of high school. Students who indicate that they are taking the core courses or more generally score at higher levels on the ACT.

2010 KENTUCKY JUNIORS' COURSE-TAKING PATTERNS/ACT COMPOSITE SCORES

Group	Number	Percent Taking Core or More	Composite Score – Core or More	Composite Score – Less Than Core
All Students	44,390	58	19.7	17.1
African Am./Black	3,973	45	16.7	15.2
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	209	50	18.0	15.3
Caucasian Am./White	33,997	61	20.0	17.5
Hispanic	930	52	17.9	15.9
Asian Am./Pacific Islander	443	64	23.1	19.5
Other/No Response	4,838	54	19.4	16.4

KRS 158.6453 mandates that Kentucky's public school students participate in the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) from ACT. The state assesses public school 8th graders using the EXPLORE test, public school 10th graders with the PLAN test and public school 11th graders through the ACT.

Senate Bill 1, passed in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly and codified in KRS 158.6453, mandates that ACT results be included in school and district accountability results in the 2011-12 school year.

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